

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00263 021352Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-08 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /047 W

-----030855 112473 /21

R 021310Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL DHARAHAN

TO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5286

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS DHARAHAN 0263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI RAILROAD NETWORK

REF: USDOC 02329, DHARAHAN 0029

1. QUESTION RAISED IN PARA 2 OF REF DEPTEL, RE JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR SAUDI RAIWAY PROJECTS, WAS DISCUSSED WITH ASS'T DIRECTOR-GENERAL (D-G) FOR ENGINEERING, SAUDI GOVERNMENT RAILROAD CORPORATION (SGRO), WHO EXPLAINED THAT NEGOTIATION ARE BEING CARRIED ON AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN RIYADH. COMMENTING -WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT", HE EXPLAINED THAT ONLY INFORMATION HE HAD WAS WHAT HE HAD CLIPPED FROM NEWSPAPERS. ONE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REPORTED THAT ENTIRE PROJECT WOULD COST SR 5 BILLION WHICH, ACCORDING TO SGRO OFFICIAL, SEEMED TOO LOW CONSIDERING MAGNITUDE OF PROJECT.

2. ONLY SGRO OFFICIAL WHO MAY BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTION POSED IN REF DEPTEL IS DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHEHAIL. HE IS CURRENTLY TRAVELLING OUTSIDE OF SAUDI ARABIA AND WE SHALL RAISE QUESTION WITH HIM UPON HIS RETURN. PERHAPS, IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DHAHRA 00263 021352Z

MEANTIME, AMEMBASSY JIDDA CAN OBTAIN INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM SAG MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

3. THIS WEEK CONGENOFF ASKED ACTING D-G OF SGRO ABOUT IMMEDIATE PLANS TO IMPROVE RAILROAD NETWORK. HE EXPLAINED THAT RAILROAD IS CURRENTLY OPENING BIDS FOR CONTRACT TO UPGRADE AND RE-ENGINEER 105 KM OF SGRO MAINLINE ROADBED.

IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST FOR NEXT FY, SGRO HAS ASKED FOR FUNDS TO DO DESIGN-ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD TO JUBAIL -- A NEW INDUSTRIAL CITY BEING BUILT 45 MILES NORTH OF HERE. ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT EARLIEST SGRO COULD RECEIVE FUNDS FOR WEST-OF- RIYADH EXPANSION WOULD BE IN FY 78-79 BUDGET.

4. ASSISTANT D-G FOR ENGINEERING EXPLAINED THAT SGRO HAS CONTRACTED WITH TECHNITAL, VIA CATTANEO 20, 37100 VERONA, TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO SGRO. TECHNITAL HAS TWO TECHNICIANS IN COUNTRY AND IS BUILDING UP TO 20 BY MID 1977.

5. RE VISIT OF ALGHESON, HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN HOUSTON AND, BECAUSE OF UNSEASONABLY COLD WINTER IN US, DID MOST OF HIS CONSULTING BY TELEPHONE WITH COMPANIES HE HAD PLANNED TO CALL ON WHILE IN US. HE STATED THAT HE HAD USEFULL MEETING WITH HOUSTON DISTRICT OFFICE DIRECTOR FELIX GUERRARO AS PER PARA 3 OF OUR REFTEL.  
BUSHNELL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DHAHRA00263  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770073-0130  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DHARAHAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197703102/aaaadmcv.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1f4e88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DHARAHAN 29  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2943351  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAUDI RAILROAD NETWORK  
**TAGS:** BEXP, SA  
**To:** COM JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1f4e88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009